1907MNRAS..67..315.

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MONTHLY NOTICES

OF THE

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

VOL. LXVII. MARCH 8, 1907. No. 5

H. F. NEWALL, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

Edward George Bloomfield Barlow, Ditton Lodge, Stourwood Avenue, Bournemouth;
Lieut. F. G. Cooper, R.N.R., H.M.S. "Ocean," 131 Sutton Court, Chiswick, W.; and
Edward Power, F.S.A., F.G.S., 16 Southwell Gardens, S.W., and Watership, Newbury, Berks,

were balloted for and duly elected Fellows of the Society.

One hundred and eight presents were announced as having been received since the last meeting, including, amongst others:—

Carl Friedrich Gauss Werke, Band vii. (presented by Prof. M. Brendel); Report of the Italian Commission on Observations of the total solar Eclipse of 1905 at Alcala Chivert, Spain (presented by the Catania Observatory); J. A. C. Oudemans, Mutual Occultations and Eclipses of the Satellites of Jupiter (presented by Prof. Nijland); Prague Observatory, Astronomische Beobachtungen, 1892–99, nebst Zeichnungen und Studien der Mondoberfläche, von L. Weinek (presented by the Observatory); Müller und Kempf, Photometrische Durchmusterung, Generalkatalog (presented by the Potsdam Observatory).

Astrographic Chart of the heavens: 40 charts presented by the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, and 20 charts by the San Fernando Observatory.

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Baxendell's Observations of U Geminorum. Edited by H. H. Turner, D.Sc., F.R.S., Savilian Professor.

1. These observations are published at once for the reason mentioned on p. 119 of this volume, viz.:—the University of Utrecht has offered a prize (open to Dutch astronomers) for a dissertation on this Variable, and there have been requests made for original observations.

Mr Joseph Baxendell has now put into my hands the MS. observations made by his father, which go back to 1836. Inquiry having been made as to this particular star, it was elicited that these valuable observations of variables were for the most part not ledgered, but remained in the original observation books. Of these there are—

(*a*) Three foolscap volumes, 1836–48, 1848–56, and 1856–60,
(*b*) Seven small notebooks, 1861–77,
(*c*) A quarto notebook, 1877–88,

of which (*a*) and (*b*) represent work at Manchester, and (*c*) work at Southport.

2. The material (*b*) and (*c*) has all been now copied out in ledger form (under each star), and the ledgers are deposited in a building different from that containing the original books. The material (*a*) is more difficult to transcribe in ledger form. It is scarcely possible to hand it to anyone who is not familiar with variable star records, and procedure is under consideration. I take this opportunity of saying that I should be very glad of skilled volunteer assistance, at any rate in dealing with the copied ledgers for different stars, and perhaps with these early records also. If any variable star observer has leisure for work of the kind and would communicate with me, I should gratefully accept assistance in making this mass of valuable material ready for publication as soon as possible. Unaided, my work at it must necessarily be slow.

3. The observations of the elder Baxendell (*b* 1815–*d* 1887) divide themselves into two periods:—

1836–1877 at Manchester. "With his friend Mr Robert Worthington, of Crumpsall Old Hall, he erected the Crumpsall Observatory, where the large 13-inch reflector (the speculum of which he had himself cast, ground, and polished) was mounted, beside a small 5-inch equatorial refractor" (*Monthly Notices*, xlviii. p. 157). The former instrument is designated R(13) below, and the latter A. In *M. N.*, xviii. p. 11, the focal length of A is given as 70 inches. Besides these a 12-inch reflector belonging to Mr Williamson was used, and is designated R(12); and other small instruments—a 30-inch achromatic, a 22-inch achromatic, and a Tully telescope. These are called 30(*a*), 22(*a*), and T respectively. There are also B ("Mr Bowman's 7½-inch") and C, a comet seeker of about 2½ inches aperture. Mr Baxendell tells me that 22(*a*) was an excellent 2¾-inch by Dancer, who also made A.

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